



# Ty Caton Vineyards

*Actively Seeking Excellence*

## Moon Mountain AVA



**Moon Mountain District** is an AVA within Sonoma Valley, just north of the city of Sonoma. This **mountainous** viticultural area on the very eastern edge of Sonoma County is warmer than the Sonoma Valley floor, and produces rich, intensely-flavored wines. The AVA covers around 17,500 acres of land along the **western slopes of the Mayacamas mountains** between Sugarloaf Ridge and Carneros, with the Napa Valley AVA of Mount Veeder covering the eastern slopes.

Moon Mountain District (officially 'Moon Mountain District Sonoma County') was designated as an AVA in late **2013**, becoming one of California's most recently delimited appellations. The name of the district is a reference to **Sonoma**, which means '**valley of the moon**' in the local Native American dialect.

Moon Mountain District is **less subject to cooling influences** than other parts of Sonoma County due to its more inland area. Winds from both the Pacific Ocean and San Pablo Bay in the south bring cooling maritime influences to the vineyards, but by the time the winds have travelled across the valley floor they have warmed considerably. Most of the region's **vineyards face west**, subjecting them to stronger afternoon sunlight, and the **higher elevations** here – up to 2200ft (670m) above sea level – put the vineyards above the influence of the famous Sonoma fog.

The **warmer climate** here means that the vineyards of Moon Mountain District have a **longer growing season** than other parts of Sonoma Valley with earlier budburst in the spring and a longer hang time for the grapes in fall. Cold air tends to drain off the hillside vineyards into the valley, reducing the risk of damaging frosts and allowing for a long, slow maturation period. As a result, Moon Mountain District grapes have a **good balance of sugars and acidity**, leading to well-balanced wines.

Moon Mountain District's **soils are very distinct** from those of the surrounding area, and are one of the main reasons that a more specific AVA title was approved within Sonoma Valley. While much of the surrounding area has sedimentary soils, the vineyards of Moon Mountain District sit on **iron-rich volcanic soils**. These red, rocky soils are thin and well-drained, which stresses the vines and leads to lower yields and less leafy canopy growth, resulting in smaller, more highly concentrated berries.



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